

Message Text

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65

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 BIB-01

EB-07 MCT-01 ACDA-07 NASA-01 ERDA-05 OES-06 COME-00

CU-02 /086 W

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R 030553Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3495

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, RP

SUBJECT: MARCOS DEFINES SUBVERSION (AND ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR
NEW DOMESTIC COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE)

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN DEC 2 SPEECH BEFORE BROADCASTERS, PRESIDENT
MARCOS PRESENTED SWEEPING DEFINITION OF SUBVERSION AS INCLUD-
ING ENCOURAGEMENT OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE. HE SAID CLOSED
CHURCH-LINKED RADIO STATIONS IN MINDANAO HAD RELAYED MESSAGES
FOR REBELS, STATED THAT 63 ARRESTED IN DAVAO AND ELSEWHERE
IN SOUTH, AND ASSERTED THAT RECENT ARRESTS IN MANILA AIMED AT
SUBVERSIVES AND NOT JUST CRIMINAL ELEMENTS (AS IMPLIED BY
EARLIER PRESS COVERAGE). WITHOUT SPECIFYING SOURCE OF HARD-
WARE, HE ANNOUNCED THAT GOP INTENDS TO HAVE DOMESTIC
COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE IN OPERATION BY DECEMBER 1977, AND
SAID THIS CREATED NEED TO FURTHER "SYSTEMATIZE" NATIONAL
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COMMUNICATIONS (INCLUDING BROADCASTING). END SUMMARY.

1. IN DEC 2 SPEECH BEFORE BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION (KATIPUNAN NG MGA BROADCASTERS SA PILIPINAS) MARCOS JUSTIFIED RECENT ARRESTS AND SHUTDOWN OF RADIO STATIONS IN MINDANAO. HE NOTED THAT ZEITLIN CASE, CLOSURE OF TWO CHURCH-LINKED RADIO STATIONS AND ARREST OF 63 INDIVIDUALS IN MINDANAO, AND RECENT SWEEPS IN MANILA (WHICH HE EMPHASIZED AIMED AT SUBVERSIVES, NOT JUST CRIMINALS) HAD RAISED DOUBTS ABOUT GOP MEDIA POLICY AND WHAT CONSTITUTED SUBVERSION.

2. PRESIDENT ASSERTED THAT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS DID NOT RPT NOT MEAN "NEW AND TIGHTER CONTROL" ON MEDIA. RATHER IT MEANT AFFIRMATION OF EXISTING POLICY THAT MEDIA SHOULD BE "COMMITTED AGENT IN EDUCATION OF PUBLIC INTEREST." FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND PRESS, WHICH HE TERMED "BASIC," DID NOT CONVEY "IMPUNITY TO COMMIT LIBEL, SOW REBELLION, FOMENT VIOLENCE AND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE, OR ENCOURAGE OR INDUCE SUCH ACTS." ISOLATED ANTI-GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS ARE PERMISSIBLE, BUT REPEATED ENCOURAGEMENT OF A VIOLENCE, REBELLION, LIBEL OR CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE WITHOUT ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE "TRUTH" WAS "ACTIONABLE SUBVERSION." PRESIDENT SAID MARTIAL LAW PER SE MADE NO DIFFERENCE IN POLICY, WITH SINGLE EXCEPTION THAT INTENTION TO COMMIT SUBVERSIVE ACT (AS OPPOSED TO ACTUAL COMMISSION) WAS GROUNDS FOR PREVENTIVE DETENTION.

3. COMMENTING ON CLOSED MINDANAO RADIO STATIONS (DXCD IN TAGUM, DAVAL DEL NORTE, AND DXBB IN MALAYBALAY, BUKIDNON) MARCOS SAID THAT WHILE IT WAS "BENEATH DIGNITY OF MY OFFICE TO GO INTO DETAILS" THEY HAD OPENLY VIOLATED STANDARDS OF CONDUCT BY PERFORMING AS "MESSAGE CENTERS AND MEANS OF SUBVERSIVE PROPAGANDA BY SUBVERSIVE GROUPS" AND "RELAYING OF STRANGE UNDERSTANDABLE MESSAGES THROUGH A LONG PERIOD OF TIME WHICH OFTEN INDICATED EITHER SMUGGLING OR AMBUSCADES OF GOVERNMENT TROOPS," PLUS SOWING RUMORS, ETC.

4. CLOSING ON UPBEAT NOTE, MARCOS SAID PHILIPPINES INTENDS TO HAVE DOMESTIC COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OPERATION BY DECEMBER 1977 (AS OPPOSED TO EARLIER TARGET GOAL, JULY 1978). CITING INDONESIAN EXPERIENCE MARCOS SAID SATELLITE WOULD ENABLE GOP TO COMMUNICATE WITH ENTIRE LENGTH OF ARCHIPELAGO ON MATTERS INCLUDING NATIONAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL BROADCASTING AS WELL AS ORDINARY BROADCASTING. HE SAID BG CEBERINO CARREON, CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF COMMUNICATIONS, WILL HEAD COMMITTEE (IN COOPERATION WITH BROADCASTERS) TO

"SYSTEMATIZE" THE NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS
IN PREPARATION FOR SATELLITE PROGRAMMING.

5. COMMENT: WHILE IT WILL NOT COME AS NEWS TO ANYONE,
SPEECH IS PERHAPS CLEAREST STATEMENT TO DATE THAT MERE
ENCOURAGEMENT OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE QUALIFIES AS
SUBVERSION IN PRESIDENT'S EYES. REGARDING SATELLITE,
DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT GOP AT ONE TIME EXPRESSED
INTEREST IN OBTAINING USE OF EXCESS US SATELLITE (ATS-6)
CAPACITY. NOTHING CAME OF IT AND AT THIS POINT WE
UNAWARE EXACTLY WHAT SATELLITE MARCOS HAS IN MIND.
REFERENCE TO FURTHER "SYSTEMATIZATION" IN PREPARATION
FOR SATELLITE PROGRAMMING MAY SOUND ORWELLIAN, BUT IN
FACT (GIVEN SOFTWARE AND OTHER PROBLEMS) IT IS ANYTHING
BUT CERTAIN SATELLITE BROADCASTING WILL REACH THE
PHILIPPINES BY 1984.
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